In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of 04/22/2004

Attorney Docket No. 0470-031840

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (new): A dispenser assembly for elongated objects such as plant stakes, comprising a store provided with an elongated dispensing opening for said objects, as well as a conveyor, moving past said dispensing opening, for said objects, said conveyor comprising a central part, which central part is bordered on either side by, in each case, a support part located some distance away therefrom and equipped so as, in each case, to support one end of said elongated object, wherein said central part is provided with accommodations that are designed to accommodate said objects and extend essentially parallel to said dispensing opening.

Claim 14 (new): The dispenser assembly according to claim 13, wherein said elongated dispensing opening is made directly adjoining the central part and designed to contain various elongated objects alongside one another.

Claim 15 (new): The dispenser assembly according to claim 13, wherein said central part provided with accommodations comprises a cylinder.

Claim 16 (new): The dispenser assembly according to claim 13, wherein said support parts comprise a disc.

Claim 17 (new): The dispenser assembly according to claim 13, wherein said support parts are not provided with accommodations.

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Claim 18 (new): The dispenser assembly according to claim 13, wherein a

surface of said support parts and said part provided with accommodations execute the same

transporting movement.

Claim 19 (new): The dispenser assembly according to claim 15, wherein

said support parts comprise a disc, and said cylinder and discs are mounted on a common shaft.

Claim 20 (new): An apparatus comprising a series of dispenser assembly

each comprising a store provided with an elongated dispensing opening for said objects, as well

as a conveyor, moving past said dispensing opening, for said objects, said conveyor comprising

a central part, which central part is bordered on either side by, in each case, a support part located

some distance away therefrom and equipped so as, in each case, to support one end of said

elongated object, wherein said central part is provided with accommodations that are designed

to accommodate said objects and extend essentially parallel to said dispensing opening, with a

common store, wherein axes of the accommodations of each of said assemblies are arranged

parallel and in line one after the other.

Claim 21 (new): An assembly for placing an elongated object such as a

stake in an object such as a pot plant, comprising a placing apparatus for said object, gripper

means for said objects and a dispenser assembly comprising a store provided with an elongated

dispensing opening for said objects, as well as a conveyor, moving past said dispensing opening,

for said objects, said conveyor comprising a central part, which central part is bordered on either

side by, in each case, a support part located some distance away therefrom and equipped so as,

in each case, to support one end of said elongated object, wherein said central part is provided

with accommodations that are designed to accommodate said objects and extend essentially

parallel to said dispensing opening, said dispenser assemblies being located opposite one another.

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Claim 22 (new): The assembly according to claim 21, wherein said gripper

means for said object comprise a clamping jaw construction that is movable in rotating and

translational movement.

Claim 23 (new): The assembly according to claim 21, comprising two

adjacent gripper means for said objects interacting with two dispenser assemblies each

comprising a store provided with an elongated dispensing opening for said objects, as well as a

conveyor, moving past said dispensing opening, for said objects, said conveyor comprising a

central part, which central part is bordered on either side by, in each case, a support part located

some distance away therefrom and equipped so as, in each case, to support one end of said

elongated object, wherein said central part is provided with accommodations that are designed

to accommodate said objects and extend essentially parallel to said dispensing opening, said

dispenser assemblies being located opposite one another.

Claim 24 (new): A method for individual separation of elongated objects,

comprising the steps of: feeding said objects into a store, dispensing through a dispensing

opening thereof to a conveyor for said elongated objects, said conveyor being provided with

accommodations and support parts, spaced therefrom for said elongated objects, wherein said

conveyor transports said elongated objects stepwise in a main direction and after each step

performs a movement in a direction opposed to the main direction over a distance that is smaller

than said step.

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